

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02697 272251Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6921

ALL AMER CONSULATES IN MEXICO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, MX

SUBJECT: STUDENT DISORDERS AT AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF
GUERRERO (UAG)

REF: MEXICO 2277

1. SITUATION DESCRIBED REFTEL HAS CONTINUED ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED FOR TWO WEEKS. GROUP WHICH SEIZED UAG RECTORY MARCH 12 HAS RETAINED POSSESSION TO PREVENT NEWLY ELECTED RECTOR, ARQUIMIDES MORALES, FROM TAKING OFFICE. REFTEL SAID MORALES WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE OFFICE MARCH 13. ACTUALLY THAT WAS DATE ELECTION OF MORALES WAS RATIFIED BY GOVERNING UNIVERSITY COUNCIL. MORALES IS NOT SCHEDULED TO BE INAUGURATED UNTIL MAY.

2. ON UAG CAMPUS ONLY SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT WAS "TURNING OVER" MARCH 21 OF RECTORY BY GROUP WHICH SEIZED IT TO CESAR SALAZAR ORTIZ ALTHOUGH GROUP REMAINS PRESENT TO GUARD RECTORY. THIS GROUP APPARENTLY HAS PROCLAIMED SALAZAR "INTERIM RECTOR" TO CALL NEW ELECTIONS. GROUP JUSTIFIES THIS ACTION ON BASIS SALAZAR WAS NOT CANDIDATE IN RECENT ELECTION AND THEREFORE NEUTRAL IN THE CONFLICT. OPPOSING FACTION HAS NOT ACCEPTED THIS "SOLUTION."

3. OFF UAG CAMPUS, SOME 25 PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITIES, SCHOOLS OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY, AND VARIOUS OPPOSITION GROUPS
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02697 272251Z

(EXCLUDING REGISTERED OPPOSITION PARTIES) HAVE CALLED FOR

WEEK OF SOLIDARITY WITH UAG GROUP SUPPORTING WENCES (OUTGOING RECTOR) AND MORALES BEGINNING APRIL 4. ON MARCH 26 A UNAM THEATER GROUP MARCHED THROUGH DOWNTOWN MEXICO CITY, COSTUMED TO PORTRAY CONFLICT IN MANNER SYMPATHETIC TO RECTOR.

4. COMMENT: GOVERNOR-ELECT FIGUEROA HAS REMAINED SILENT AND OUT OF PUBLIC VIEW AFTER INITIALLY DENYING ANY INVOLVEMENT. HOWEVER, FIGUEROA WILL TAKE OFFICE APRIL 1 IN CEREMONY WHICH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WILL ATTEND. ALTHOUGH ECHEVERRIA HAS ANNOUNCED HE WILL ATTEND ALL GUBERNATORIAL INAUGURATIONS THROUGH END OF HIS TERM, HIS PRESENCE IN CHILPANCINGO IS NONETHELESS SHOW OF SUPPORT TO FIGUEROA, AND OCCASION HOLDS POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE.

5. WE BELIEVE ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL THE INCIDENT AT UNAM MARCH 14 AND UAG EPISODE WHICH BEGAN MARCH 12. POLITICAL COMMENTATORS INITIALLY LABELED "SUSPICIOUS" THE TIMING OF THE FORMER, BUT SINCE IT APPEARS UAG RECTORY TAKEOVER WAS INSTIGATED BY FIGUEROA, IT MAKES NO SENSE THAT HE INTENTIONALLY WOULD HAVE TIMED INCIDENT TO CREATE DISTURBANCE WHICH RAN RISK OF SPILLING OVER TO UNAM CAMPUS.

6. AFTER FIRST TWO DAYS, PRESS HAS GIVEN UAG EPISODE SCANT ATTENTION, PERHAPS BECAUSE DOWNPLAYING MATTER HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY GOM.
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